

thecollegian

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www.kstatecollegian.com

Adjusting to civilian life can prove challenging

BY ALYSSA SMITH
THE COLLEGIAN

Adjusting to life in the U.S. after serving overseas in countries such as Afghanistan can be a challenging, but important, process for U.S. soldiers.

For Spc. Quenton Schur, 20, of Minneapolis, Kansas, the transition back to his pre-deployment lifestyle was a difficult process, he said.

"Deployment was fun," Schur said. "Three meals a day and the weight room (on base) was amazing."

Once he returned to the U.S., it was difficult to readapt to American life because he was used to always carrying a weapon, never driving and not consuming alcohol, he said. Sudden loud noises also made transitioning into civilian life more challenging, he said.

Although he said though readapting to his old lifestyle was difficult at times, he enjoyed being able to come home in mid-April to family and friends, including his dad Jason Schur and stepmom Alicia Schur.

"Coming home was a good feeling," Schur said. "(It was good) to see my family and friends again, especially my girlfriend, Kenzie. It's nice to relax and enjoy myself and finally eat steak."

His homecoming was also a special moment for Schur's stepmom Alicia.

"(I was) very happy that he was back, due to fear of him not coming home," she said.

Military beginnings

Schur began his military career at the age of 16 when he enrolled in St. John's Military School in Salina. After graduating in 2012, he was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia for basic training.

The Bravo Company 2-54 Infantry, which consisted of Schur and 26 other soldiers, was deployed to Regional Command East on the Afghanistan and Pakistan border where they were stationed for nine months.

During these months, Schur said he adapted to the fast-paced lifestyle of deployment.

"It was simple," he said. "Be at the right place, at the right time, in the right uniform. Other than that, it was a rush."

In Schur's job as team leader in the weapons squad, he was responsible for handling machine guns.

"I was team leader of a two-man gun team acting as the assistant gunner," Schur said.

During his time in Afghanistan, Schur said he experienced firefights and was shot at by numerous indirectly fired

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"SOLDIERS"

Getting a kick out of spring



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Allan Ddamulira, sophomore in biological systems engineering, takes a shot at goalie Alonso Acevedo, sophomore in biochemistry, as the two practice at Old Stadium Monday evening.

Sign raises awareness of transgender community, features K-State student



CAITLYN MASSY | THE COLLEGIAN

A billboard sponsored by the Flint Hills Human Rights Project promoted awareness and understanding of the transgender community, featuring Adam O'Brien, senior in fine arts.

BY RENEE GRAGG
THE COLLEGIAN

In an effort to help raise awareness and visibility of the transgender community, a billboard featuring Adam O'Brien, senior in fine arts, was constructed alongside K-177 by Sunflower Pets.

The Flint Hills Human Rights Project funded the sign, which launched on March 31, International Day of Transgender Visibility, which reads, "I am an art student at Kansas State University and an avid tattoo designer. I am an older brother,

a best friend, and a full-on nerd. I am a transgender man. I am Manhattan."

The billboard, displayed through the month of April, was part of a series called the "i am project," with other billboards displayed in Wichita, Kansas City, Lawrence, Overland Park and other major Kansas cities.

The series of images in the "i am project" originally began as an Internet series promoted through The Face of Trans website and social media accounts. The Face of Trans, a state wide organization, has focused on changing the stereotypes of the LGBT

community and encouraging equality and acceptance since April 2013.

The idea behind the billboard and event was to spark conversations and promote open communication between members of the Manhattan community.

"It's easy to dismiss transgender people when we feel we cannot or do not relate to them," Elle Boatman, founder of The Face of Trans, said.

There has been mixed reaction to the billboard from the Manhattan community.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8,
"BILLBOARD"

K-State, Manhattan area news updates

BY KAREN SARITA INGRAM
THE COLLEGIAN

Miss Kansas to star in upcoming TV show

Kansas Army National Guard Sgt. Theresa Vail, senior in chemistry and 2013 Miss Kansas, will be hosting her own show on the Outdoor Channel called, "Limitless with Theresa Vail." The show, slated to debut in July, will feature Vail's love of hunting, the outdoors and various locations in her home state. The first episode was filmed on April 11 as Vail and her father, Mark Vail, participated in the Governor's Turkey Hunt in El Dorado, Kansas.

Vail was a finalist in the 2014 Miss America Pageant.

Free movie on campus to ease Dead Week woes

Season Three of the K-State Computers and Technology Movie Series continues with a free screening of the 2013 film "The Fifth Estate" this Thursday at 7 p.m. in Nichols Hall room 126.

Based on a true story, "The Fifth Estate" stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Wikileaks founder Julian Assange as he teams up with Daniel Domscheit-Berg

(played by Daniel Brühl) to leak covert data and expose corrupt government and corporate activities.

The K-State Computers and Technology Movie Series offers free movies to students and the general public about technology for the past three years. It is hosted by the Department of Computing and Information Sciences. Past films this semester have included the 2013 film "Gravity" and the 1999 made-for-TV movie "Pirates of Silicon Valley." For more information on the movie series and upcoming films, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/KSUCompTechMovies

Graduate School announces final doctoral dissertations

The final doctoral dissertation of Rachel Pigg, "A Multi-Scale Investigation of Movement Patterns Among Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Colonies," will be held May 14 at 10 a.m. in Ackert Hall room 324.

The final doctoral dissertation of Bryce Gerlach, "The Effects of Exercise on Beef Cattle Health, Performance, and Carcass Quality; and the Effects of Extended Aging, Blade Tenderization, and Degree Doneness on Beef Aroma Volatile Formation," will be held May 15 at 11:30 a.m. in Weber Hall room 111.

INSIDE

SOCIAL MEDIA

WEATHER



3 Woods to compete in NCAA Regionals



4 Chapters honor house moms for hard work

Fact of the Day

In Russia, beer was considered a "soft drink" until 2011. It is now instead classified as an alcoholic beverage.



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youtube.com/user/Ecollegian

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ACROSS

1 Leading man?
 5 Surmounting
 9 — Beta Kappa
 12 Game played on horseback
 13 Caesar's "I came"
 14 Tatter
 15 Orange liqueur
 17 Raw mineral
 18 Section
 19 Beneficial possession
 21 Founded (on)
 24 Genealogy chart
 25 Help a hood
 26 Migraine, e.g.
 30 Actor Cage, to fans
 31 Baseball's Sosa
 32 Eg. and Syr., once
 33 Miscellaneous remnants

35 Use a swizzle stick
 36 Lends a hand
 37 Pub orders
 38 Cleopatra's carrier
 40 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
 42 Here (Fr.)
 43 Division in half
 48 Lingerie item
 49 "The Thin Man" dog
 50 Possess
 51 Stein or Stiller
 52 Incursion
 53 Send forth

DOWN

1 Suitable
 2 "Le Coq —"
 3 "The Greatest"
 4 Tyke
 5 Declare openly
 6 Criterion
 7 Indivisible
 8 "Roses of —" (pop song of WWI)
 9 Bring legal action against
 10 Aesopian runner-up
 11 "— a Kick Out of You"
 16 Young chap

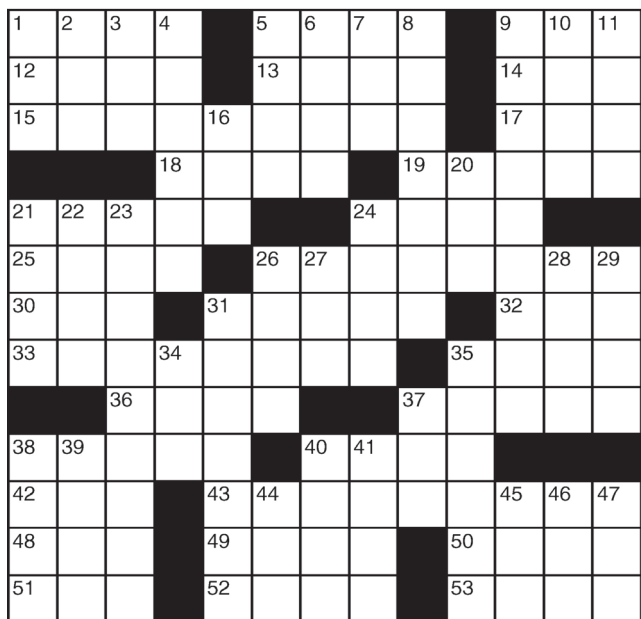
20 Vast

21 Combo
 22 Rose's love, in the theater
 23 Denominational
 24 Scots' 26-Down
 26 See 24-Down
 27 Ostrich's cousin
 28 Barber's concern
 29 Blunders
 31 Courtroom conference
 34 Manipulate fraudulently
 35 Boil
 37 Pen name?
 38 Variety of lettuce
 39 Farm fraction
 40 Italian wine area
 41 Plumbum
 44 "There — tide ..."
 45 Cartesian conclusion
 46 Egg (Pref.)
 47 Profit

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-6



From the President's Desk



Hey Wildcats,

Welcome to the start of another dead week at K-State! It's safe to say this semester has flown by. It seems like just the other day we were starting our spring classes, and just like that, we're a few exams from summer.

In this week's column, I want to take the opportunity to introduce my cabinet. These are the people Vice President Cody Kennedy and I hand-selected to help effectively lead and represent the student body. They have different experiences and come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but they all have something in common: a passion for K-State and a relentless desire to make our university the best it can be.

First up is our chief of staff, Andy Hurtig. Andy is a sophomore from Wichita studying regional and community planning with minors in leadership studies and economics. He'll oversee and advise cabinet members and chair cabinet meetings.

One of the most important positions is executive initiatives director. Joseph Wenberg, junior in journalism and political

science from Wichita, will work closely with Cody, Andy and I as executive initiatives director to realize our major platform goals. He'll establish committees, write legislation and conduct a vast amount of research.

When we have any financial questions, we'll turn to our chief economist Brodie Herrman, junior in political science from Manhattan. He'll be researching proposals for tuition and credit-hour fee increases, as well as analyzing the monetary side of our platform initiatives.

It's crucial for K-State to maintain positive working relationships with our local and state governments. That's where state relations director Asher Gilliland, sophomore in finance from Topeka, and local relations director Christa McKittrick, sophomore in accounting and finance from Prairie Village, Kansas, come in. They'll be our links to elected officials in Manhattan and Topeka.

Our student organization outreach directors Lizzi Petite, junior in human resource management from Junction City, and Sarah Truman, junior in life sciences and gerontology from Hutchinson, Kansas, will be key players in the rollout of OrgSync. They'll also work with the Office of Student Activities and Services to develop and facilitate leadership workshops.

As the world becomes increasingly digital and mobile, it's important for K-State to keep up. Technology director Tucker Styrkiewicz, sophomore in industrial engineering from Leawood,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8, "KAYS"

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The Collegian welcomes your letters. We reserve the right to edit submitted letters for clarity, accuracy, space and relevance. A letter intended for publication should be no longer than 350 words and must refer to an article that appeared in the Collegian within the last 10 issues. It must include the author's first and last name, year in school and major. If you are a graduate of K-State, the letter should include your year(s) of graduation and must include the city and state where you live. For a letter to be considered, it must include a phone number where you can be contacted. The number will not be published. Letters can be sent to letters@kstatecollegian.com.

Letters may be rejected if they contain abusive content, lack timeliness, contain vulgarity, profanity or falsehood, promote personal and commercial announcements, repeat comments of letters printed in other issues or contain attachments.

The Collegian does not publish open letters, third-party letters or letters that have been sent to other publications or people.

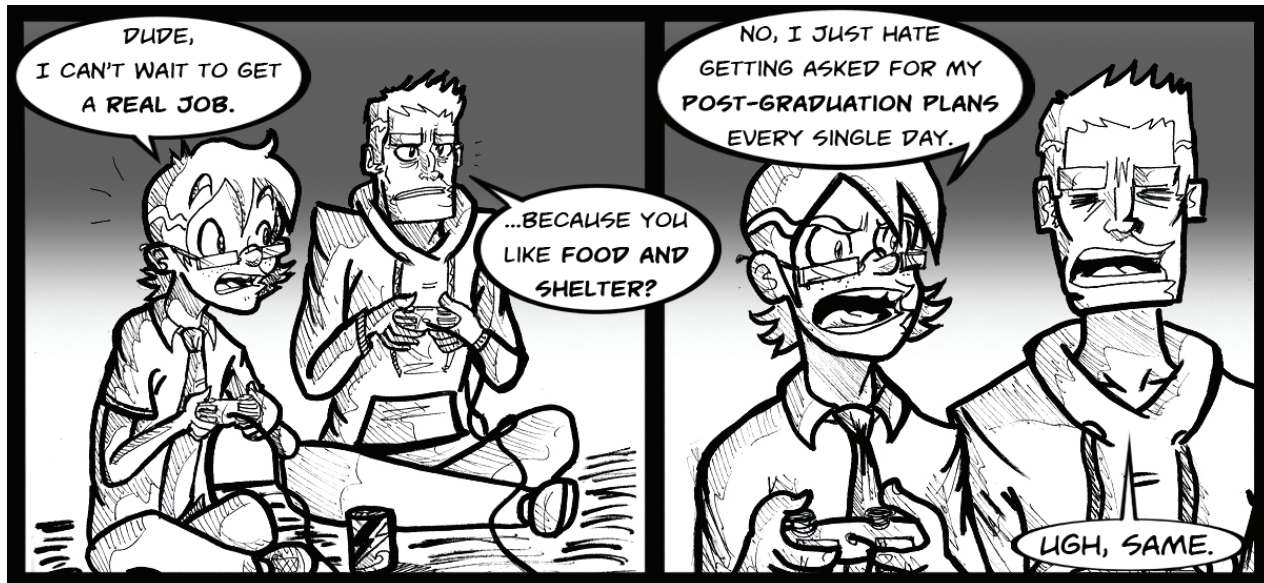
CORRECTIONS

There was an error in the May 1 issue. Several lines were left off the poem by Grant Stucky. The complete poem can be found at www.kstatecollegian.com. In the May 5 issue, the author of "Student journeys from Puerto Rico to pursue passion for volleyball, animals" was incorrectly identified. The article was written by Chloe Austin. The Collegian regrets the errors. If you see something that should be corrected or clarified, call managing editor Jena Sauber at 785-532-6556 or email news@kstatecollegian.com.

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All weather information courtesy of the National Weather Service. For up-to-date forecasts, visit nws.noaa.gov.

For The Win | By Parker Wilhelm



The Weekly Planner

Tuesday, May 6

Student Recital Series: Theory Class Composition
 All Faiths Chapel
 11:30 a.m.

Student Study Night

Beach Museum of Art
 4-8 p.m.

Managing stress during final exams

Studio 4,
 Chester E. Peters
 Recreation Complex
 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7

Defense of Doctoral Dissertations: Harshi Manawadu's "Design of a Nanoplatform for Treating Pancreatic Cancer"

Room 209
 Chemistry/
 Biochemistry
 Building
 2 p.m.

Visiting Artist Michael Lorsung to lecture, build soda kiln

Room 25
 Willard Hall
 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Movies on the Grass: "Back to the Future"
 Haymaker Hall
 8:30 p.m.

Friday, May 9

Defense of Doctoral Dissertations: Chun Yu's "Robust Mixture Modeling"

Room 350
 Waters Hall
 3:30 p.m.

UPC Film: "The Awkward Moment"
 Little Theatre,
 K-State Student

Union — 8 p.m.

K-State After Hours: Go Bananas! Monkey around Before Finals
 Bosco Student Plaza,
 8-11 p.m.

Thursday, May 8

Michele Munson: A Decade of Aspera
 Town Hall,
 Leadership Studies
 Building
 10:30 a.m. to noon

Grad Bash

Johnson Terrace,
 K-State Alumni Center
 4-6 p.m.

A Recital of Theatrical Proportions
 UMB Theater,
 Beach Museum of Art
 7-8 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Baseball: K-State vs Oklahoma State — Bark in the Park
 Tointon Family
 Stadium — 2 p.m.

Bates Dance Studios presents "Dance Shine"
 McCain Auditorium
 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 11

Spring term ends

Baseball: K-State vs Oklahoma State — Family Day
 Tointon Family Stadium
 1 p.m.

Senior Dance Concert
 Forum Hall,
 K-State Student Union
 2:30 p.m.

Congrats, Graduates!



Graduation Guide
 the collegian
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 7th

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GOLF

Senior first to compete in NCAA Regionals since 2010

By Austin Earl
The Collegian

K-State senior golfer Daniel Wood was selected to compete in the NCAA Columbia Regional Championship on Monday in Columbia, Missouri. The tournament will be played from May 15-17 at The Club at Old Hawthorne. This will be the third time Wood has played at Old Hawthorne.

"Our team played there this last fall," Wood said. "We didn't finish very well, but the first 90 percent of the tournament we played pretty respectably. It's nice to look back to that, as well as an event I played there with my team clear back in 2009. Just going back to those experiences, I'm familiar with the course already. Not everyone in the tournament this week has had that opportunity to play the course twice like I have, so that's, I think, an advantage."

Not only has Wood played at Old Hawthorne twice, but he has another advantage going into the tournament next week. The course he's set to play on is strikingly

"Not everyone in the tournament this week has had that opportunity to play the course twice like I have, so that's, I think, an advantage."

DANIEL WOOD
SENIOR GOLFER, K-STATE

similar to the one he plays on in Manhattan.

"The course sets up a lot like Colbert Hills," Wood said. "So I guess by playing here, working hard for the next week and a half, I'll be able to continue to prepare visually for what I'll be seeing over in Columbia next week."

Wood finished tied for sev-

enth in the Big 12 Championships this season and had two top-five finishes. He had the lowest stroke average for the Wildcats in 2014 at 72.38. He has been a leader for this

team, but also taken notes from his teammates along the way.

"As far as how I benefit from them, that's a long list," Wood

said. "Just being out here practicing with my teammates. Being pushed by them in the competitions we have, both during a normal practice and when we tee it up. Those are things that obviously have paid big dividends for me."

Wood is the first K-State player since 2010 to be selected to play in the regional tournament. He is one of only five players chosen to play as an individual in the Columbia Regional.

If Wood wants to advance to the NCAA Championship, he will have to be the lowest individual in the tournament, apart from the players who's teams qualify. The NCAA Championship will be held in Hutchinson, Kansas at Prairie Dunes Country Club from May 23-28.

PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior **Daniel Wood** tees off on the 10th hole during the first day of the Jim Colbert Intercollegiate held at Colbert Hills Golf Course Sept. 30, 2013.



Six-straight losses has Wildcats in dire need of victory against Shockers



PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior catcher **Blair DeBord** hits a grounder toward shortstop in the Wildcats' 8-2 victory over Baylor April 17 at Tointon Family Stadium.

By Spencer Low
The Collegian

BASEBALL

After two straight weekends that were filled with nothing but losing, the Wildcats (23-25, 4-14 Big 12) badly need a win, and their chance comes tonight against in-state rival Wichita State (25-23, 9-6 Missouri Valley).

After being outscored 29-8 over three games this past weekend, K-State is looking for improvement in all areas, especially pitching, where their cumulative 4.45 ERA ranks dead last in the Big 12.

Hoping to solve those woes tonight for K-State will be fresh-

man Jake Fromson, making the first start of his Wildcat career. Fromson has appeared in 20 games this season, and has a 1-1 record coupled with a 3.28 ERA as one of K-State's better relievers.

On offense, the Wildcats have struggled to put runs on the board recently, with the exception being the seven runs they scored on Sunday while being mercy-ruled by TCU.

Senior Ross Kivett, who has divided field time between center field and second base this season, continues to lead the team in most categories, including batting average, on-base percentage, slugging percentage, doubles, home runs, total bases, walks, and stolen bases.

Although they have a sol-

id .287 team batting average, K-State has struggled with a power outage, accumulating 14 home runs as a team this season, which is just two more than Wichita State's Casey Gillaspie, who is having himself a whale of a season.

Gillaspie leads his team in hitting the same way that Kivett leads his, only with higher numbers: an absurd .402 average at the plate, .511 on-base percentage, .687 slugging percentage, 12 homers, 44 RBI, and the list goes on and on. In short, Gillaspie is a menace to any opposing pitcher with the bat in his hands.

After tonight's game, of which first pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Eck Stadium in Wichita, K-State has just six games left in the 2014 regular season.



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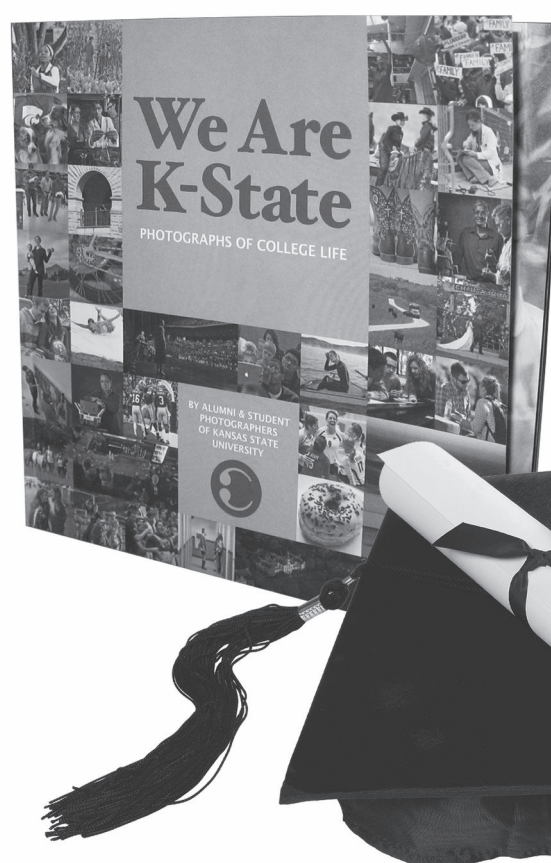
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Feature Writing: Erin Poppe,
'Love Letter to Little Apple'

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HOUSE MOM

Appreciation

Kappa, Gamma Phi sorority house moms awarded House Director of the Year

By JENA SAUBER
THE COLLEGIAN

For Julia Wilkens, or "Mom Juls," it was a porch swing set in the Southern-mason style porch that initially solidified her choice to become the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority house mom in August.

"I fell in love with the swing on the side porch," Wilkens said.

Now, less than a year later, she said she can't imagine doing anything else.

Wilkens was honored as a "House Director of the Year" during Greek Week in April for her work at the sorority.

"I love it all," she said. "I think when they are willing to share a little bit about themselves is the best."

Wilkens describes her house mom duties as a mixture between "manager," when she coordinates things like house repairs and meals, and "mom," when she listens to worries and problems and attends events and activities.

"I like anything the girls are involved in," she said. "I like to attend everything."

The award process required an application from the members of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, where chapter members wrote their own stories about their "Mom Juls."

"When it comes to making you feel valued, or bringing a smile to your face, 'Mom Juls' does it best," one story read. "She is spunky, proactive and quite possibly the very best thing that has ever happened in Gamma Alpha."

Another contributor had trouble describing "just how



LYNDI STUCKY | THE COLLEGIAN

Kappa Kappa Gamma house mom **Julia Wilkens** is hugged by the senior pledge class of Kappa. Wilkens won the 2014 House Director of the Year award, as did Gamma Phi Beta's house mom Pam Risley.

awesome" "Mom Juls" was in a few sentences.

"Trying to describe 'Mom Juls' in a few sentences is completely inadequate," another sorority woman wrote. "She is a lady who loves whole-heartedly, invests deeply in the things she's passionate about and gives her everything to Gamma Alpha ... one minute (she is) attending an intramural basketball game at 11 p.m. to cheer on 'her girls' and ... the next minute in the kitchen making supper on a snow day so in-house girls have a warm meal to eat."

"I love just watching them grow over the years, seeing how they change. They are young, beautiful, talented women."

JULIA WILKENS
HOUSE MOM, KAPPA KAPPA GAMMA

When she received the award, Wilkens said she was touched and amazed.

"I wasn't even sure if I was doing my job right,"

there is an "after hours" emergency. Being a house mom is a special balance, she said.

"It isn't as bad as people would think (being available 24 hours a day)," she said. "They are adults. They are figuring things out on their own. I just try to keep them calm."

Wilkens said she doesn't have any plans to step down as the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority house mom, and that she hopes that the women that spend time in the house will leave with something positive because of her time as house mom.

"I hope they learn how to be open minded and kind," Wilkens said. "I hope they learn to lend a listening ear and how to smile. We get too busy to smile."

'More than a job' at Gamma Phi Beta

For Pam Risley, Gamma Phi Beta sorority's house mom, her position is more than just a job.

"I basically treat them like (I am) their mom," Risley said. "After a while, they really feel like a part of your life."

Risley has been the house mom at Gamma Phi Beta sorority for 10 years. At Greek Week in April, she was one of the two house moms selected honored as "House Director of the Year" for her dedication and work for the sorority.

For Risley, a highlight of the job is watching the 185 chapter members grow while in college, including the 60 that live in the house at 1807 Todd Road.

"I love just watching them grow over the years, seeing how they change," she said. "They are young, beautiful, talented women."

Recruitment is another highlight, Risley said.

"I like recruitment a lot, because you get to have the whole house here," Risley said. "The involvement and meeting everyone is wonderful."

For Risley, receiving the award was a highlight to her job she said she already enjoys.

"It was wonderful," she said. "It warmed my heart. I know that I'm loved, but I can't think of one house mom on campus who wouldn't deserve it. They are all great."

ACACIA fraternity house mom finds balance while being treated 'like a queen'

By JENA SAUBER
THE COLLEGIAN

In her own words, L. Ann Domsch is there to "just be mom" at the ACACIA fraternity house, but for members of the fraternity, there is so much behind being "just mom."

"Mom Ann" began her duties at ACACIA in 2001 after she retired as a county

extension agent. She also currently works as the Operation: Military Kids coordinator at K-State.

"Supposedly, I retired in 2001," she said. "I flunked that big time. I was looking for a job right away."

As house mom, she assumes many roles, including some less traditional ones, she said. ACACIA members clean and help the cook, leaving Domsch open to serve in other

roles. After she gets off from her "day job" in Throckmorton Hall, she spends several hours at the house.

"I'm there just to 'be mom,' talk and listen," she said. "I spend a lot of time just visiting with the boys about how their day went, are they doing okay in class, if there is anything I can do for them. The guys know that I'm not going to pass on any information, so they feel free to talk to

me. It's great."

According to Domsch, that relationship often lasts even after graduation.

"I keep in touch with a lot of the guys who have graduated," she said. "They still feel like they can ask me questions."

After more than a decade at the fraternity, Domsch had only praise for its members.

"They are real gentlemen," she said. "They have

good manners, and they are friendly. They care about their academics, and they still have time to do philanthropy. They treat me like a queen, and I love it."

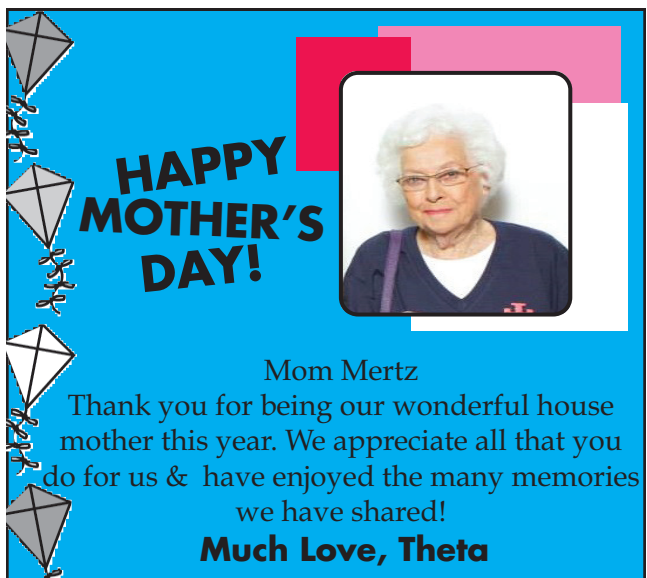
Domsch also said she enjoys working to fill the gap between high school and college.

"There is no one there saying 'Did you do your homework?' 'Are you getting up and going to class?'," she said. "I

kind of fill that void between home and a new experience."

Overall, Domsch said she hopes that as a house mom, she's been able to serve as a positive and trustworthy mentor.

"I hope that I've helped to shape their lives a little bit and that they found someone they could confide in that was a true friend really," she said. "Besides being a mom, I'm a friend."



Dear Mom Meg Pippin,

For all the things you have done and will continue to do for Pi Beta Phi, we are so thankful! We cherish the relationships we have made with you and are so proud to call you our House Mom!

Thank you!

Pi Beta Phi



To our House Mom, Barbara Podschun:

Happy Mother's Day!

Taking Pictures,
Mending Shirts,
Replacing Buttons,
and Baking Desserts.



We thank you for
making our House, a
Home.
With Appreciation -

The Men of ΣΑΕ

HOUSE MOM

Appreciation

FarmHouse fraternity house mom gives back to fraternity, community

By JENA SAUBER
THE COLLEGIAN

Barbara Oplinger's love and time at FarmHouse international fraternity has spanned decades. From being a FarmHouse sweetheart with her husband Roger, to supporting her son, Luke, as a member of the fraternity, to now in her seventh year as K-State's chapter house mom, "Mom Op" has dedicated many hours to the organization and made a lasting impact on hundreds of chapter members.

"When the guys first approached me about being a house mom a number of years ago, I asked my husband and then I asked my kids about it," Oplinger said. "My youngest daughter said, 'Oh mom, that's great for you. You've always wanted to be a mom for more kids, and just think, you won't have to pay their tuition.'"

For the K-State alumna, the house mom position fit well into her love of being a mom, as she has five children of her own, and her desire to give back to the organization.

"I did sacrifice a career for a



HANNAH HUNSINGER | THE COLLEGIAN

FarmHouse fraternity house mom **Barbara Oplinger** is in her seventh year of serving as a maternal figure to FarmHouse men. Her love of FarmHouse started with her husband, and has lasted for decades.

number of years to be a full-time mom, because I think that is an important career," she said. "But, I never really thought about being a house mom as a career. I still don't look at it as a career. I look at it as being able to give back, because they gave so much to the men in my life."

There is no "typical" day at their house on College Heights, Oplinger said. The chapter members handle most of the house chores, a goal of the chapter.

"One thing that I appreciate about FarmHouse is that it is run by the men, not by the house mom," she said. "That's one of the goals – that they will leave the fraternity house with the skills to run a house, (including to) cook and clean and (do) yard work and business manage. The guys do all of that here."

Oplinger said she enjoys supporting the boys, from attending their intramural games to providing advice or guidance to

helping decorate for holidays.

"I go to their ball games and their parties," she said. "The closet in my room has lots of resources they might need last minute so they don't have to go to Wal-Mart. It's always about 11 o'clock when they need something."

When her husband, who is a farmer, is out of town working, Oplinger spends the night at FarmHouse. Overall, her last seven years have been a positive experience, she said.

"My husband says they spoil me something terrible, because they take being a FarmHouse man very literal," she said.

House Director of the Year

During Greek Week earlier this spring, Oplinger was nominated for and won the House Director of the Year award for fraternity chapters at K-State. Separate awards are given to sorority house moms.

"Everything she does encapsulates our fraternity's mission," said Ryan Schmidt, junior in agribusiness and FarmHouse member. "She's always willing to give her time and efforts, whether it is cooking for us or taking us somewhere. She is always willing

to sacrifice."

Oplinger plays an active and important role in the fraternity, said Colin Hitz, sophomore in architectural engineering.

"She is energetic," Hitz said. "She always wants to be involved."

Sometimes, she is there for something as simple, but important, as asking for advice, Schmidt said.

"For me, to just be able to go into her room and talk about my own life or FarmHouse (is important)," Schmidt said. "Obviously, when you are older, you are more wise, but also to have a woman's perspective on certain topics, whether they are going on in my own life or something like what I should get my mom for Mother's Day. There's an advantage to living with this many guys, but there is also an advantage to having that advice from a woman, as well."

Enjoys seeing growth

Over her time at FarmHouse, Oplinger said she has most enjoyed watching the students grow.

"Seeing the growth and development in the guys from the time they get here to the time they leave (is rewarding)," she said.

"I'm really fortunate, because I get to know a lot of alumni. A lot of the members of FarmHouse become the movers and shakers wherever they go."

She also respects and appreciates how the members treat not only her, but women in general, she said.

"One of the things that is touching to me is we have a mom's weekend, and it's so sweet to see how they treat their moms," she said. "When I was growing up, my mom would always say, 'Pay attention to how the guys treat their moms, because it shows the respect they have.' That's what these guys show, not just to me as their house mom or their own mom, but they are also showing that courtesy to other women. That is very impressive to me."

Oplinger said she doesn't have plans to end her time as FarmHouse fraternity house mom anytime soon, and isn't looking forward to that day when it does eventually come.

"It's going to be a sad day when the day comes for me to leave," she said. "I think that's true for a lot of the women, whether it's a cook position or a home mom position. It's a hard position to leave."

Zeta Tau Alpha sorority house mom there for her women since beginning

By JENA SAUBER
THE COLLEGIAN

As the house mom for one of the newest greek houses on campus, Janet Wielwal has been with the women of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority almost since the beginning. Their house officially reopened in 2011, the same time Wielwal took her position as house mom.

"There is no such thing as a typical day," Wielwal said. "We are more than just a mom."

Wielwal described her position as one that is sometimes heavy on behind-the-scenes activities, such as coordinating repair services and helping plan meals and events.

"There are some days I don't have time for breakfast or lunch," Wielwal said, with a laugh.

Other times, she said her job is heavy on the other, more maternal side.

"Then there are times when I'm a 'mom,'" Wielwal said. "I've had several girls who have had semi-emergencies this semester, and I am here for them."

It's this angle of the job that Wielwal said she finds most rewarding.

"(It's most rewarding) to be able to be there when any of the girls need me," she said. "I love being able to be a surrogate mom to them."

Wielwal said she enjoys being able to support "the girls" at various events.

"Hardly a day goes by when I don't take pride in something one of the girls has done," Wielwal said. "I'm amazed with the maturity. They are very nice to work with."

While the day-to-day activities are important, Wielwal said she has a bigger focus for the members of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

"I'm very into academics," she said. "I encourage lots of studying and doing well. I want all of them to do well."

Wielwal said she came into the job at K-State almost by accident. Initially, her son sent in the resume for the job because he thought it would be a good fit for her and bring her closer to him; he lives in Missouri.

Later, she interviewed and

eventually accepted the position, something she said she is happy about.

"I really like it," she said. "I really like the community, the size of Manhattan and how involved it is. The community really takes an interest."

Wielwal, who wasn't a member of a greek organization during her collegiate years, said she is very impressed with Zeta Tau Alpha sorority members and the K-State greek organizations in general.

"I am so impressed with the greek community and all their

work," she said. "It's wonderful for girls this age to be so involved. Those who learn at this age to be volunteers help support the community in the future. It's wonderful."

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Men’s role in pregnancy support shouldn’t be devalued



I get it. I am a woman. We, as women, have a huge responsibility to take care of and protect the tiny beings that develop inside our bodies if and when we get pregnant. Therefore, I sympathize with women when some argue, “It’s my body, not a man’s. Why should a man have any say in what I do with my body?”

However, whether you’re pro-life, pro-choice or pro-bananas, we need to stop discouraging responsibility; taking men out of the pregnancy equation altogether deters them from taking ownership in the life of the child and well-being of its mother.

We have to change the pregnancy conversation and stop holding onto prejudices against the fathers in order to help our future sons and daughters become responsible.

It’s true, pregnancy isn’t all showers and baby’s breath. The movie “What to Expect When You’re Expecting” is a good reality check to the hell our bodies go through: we get fat, we get stretch marks, we have to pee approximately every 20 seconds. We want our swollen feet rubbed while we, at the same time, crave a Taco Party Pack at 2 a.m. from the Taco Bell on the other side of town.

Yet, when the men in our lives offer to get us our tacos, we chastise them from getting us tacos by tossing the “My body. Not yours.



ILLUSTRATION BY KATELIN INGRIM

So be shut up about it” argument their way.

Why are we telling the men that are at least 50 percent responsible for the life growing inside us that they have no say? Before we even allow them the chance to prove themselves, we push them out of the picture that they are a definite part of.

This claim is often used in the abortion conversation. For whatever reason a woman may consider an abortion, a 2004 study done by the Guttmacher Institute stated that the majority of the reasons for abortions is that women are “not ready for the responsibility that raising a healthy, successful and happy child brings.”

This is a terrible place to be in. A woman may feel alone, trapped and helpless when she shouldn’t have to. She should feel like the other half in this situation will help her and take responsibility. Why would any woman discourage that? Why are we shutting men down by telling them that after they have sex with a woman, they no longer have any resemblance of responsibility to what happens next? We be doing the opposite and saying, “Hey bro, we did this together. Now let’s figure this out ... together.”

Changing the conversation is imperative. If we don’t, we’re doing women everywhere a huge disservice. Not only is it discouraging men, it is harming our future generations of mothers. The “my body” argument teaches women of all ages to believe that the responsibility of a baby falls solely on their shoulders. Why would we put that weight on our sisters when someone could be sharing the load?

It seems that in our society, it’s celebrated if the father decides to stay and be responsible for a child, because it’s assumed that he won’t. This is outrageous; it should be

an embarrassment when the father chooses not to stay, because it’s assumed that he will.

Furthermore, the “my body” argument has taught young men that they’d better stay out of the pregnancy conversation or the women in his class will whoop his ass for being sexist. What if he wants to take responsibility? What is he wants to get his child’s mother Taco Bell at 2 a.m. in the morning?

We, as women, need to stop assuming all men are evil and irresponsible. If we continue to do so and refuse to hold or allow them to hold themselves accountable, nothing will change. We need to stick to high standards of responsibility and accept nothing less. We are making men think that whatever mess they make, we’ll clean it up for them because we’ve assumed they’re not capable or willing. Ladies, stop cleaning things. We clean enough as it is, and isn’t this the stereotype we’re trying to get away from?

We shouldn’t judge a pregnant woman just as much as we shouldn’t judge the man she’s pregnant with. We need to stop assuming men aren’t responsible before we given him a chance to step up. If women don’t hold men to certain standards, or allow men to own up on their own, we are ultimately doing ourselves and ladies of the future a disservice.

Your body is ultimately your body. But please, don’t tell people to not help take care of your body if they are responsible for the body inside of yours.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Laura Meyers is a freshman in pre-journalism. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

Natural hair should be embraced as beautiful, negative media influences ignored

By ARIEL CROCKETT
THE COLLEGIAN

Whether we wear it naturally curly or chemically straightened, black women have some of the most versatile hair textures in the world.

However, because we are in such an impressionable society, European standards of beauty are constantly imposed upon us in the media. You can’t open up a magazine and find five women on the pages with “natural hair.”

However, I bet you could open up a magazine and find 10 pages of women with straight hair.

One of the most common physical features of Europeans is their straight or loosely-curled hair. One of the most common physical features of African-American women is our kinky curly hair.

Due to the images of long, straight hair in the media in the past, black women have begun turning to permanently straightening their hair with relaxers.

According to Naturally Curly.com, a website geared toward women with naturally curly hair, relaxers are defined as a lotion that makes the hair easier to manage and straighten. Some black women relax

their hair because it is “easier to manage,” but, in the grand scheme of things, they have no real idea of how damaging these chemicals are to their hair and scalp.

Relaxers are permanent and made of chemicals. This means that they can be extremely damaging and, because they are permanent, you either have to cut the relaxer out of your hair or grow, or “transition,” the relaxer out of your hair.

This brings me to the topic at hand. It seems that the new trend among the African American community is to go “natural,” which is the act of embracing our natural curls, chemical or relaxer-free. African-Americans have some of the most versatile hair textures on the planet; the idea of going natural should be embraced fully.

Feeling funky? We can wear our hair in its naturally curly state. Feeling exotic? There’s a flat-iron or wavy extensions for that. However, at the end of the day, we as black women are some of the most complex-ridden people when it comes to our hair — and it all dates back to the past.

Sadly, black women who have been using relaxers for some long and often that they don’t know what their natural hair texture is anymore can’t take pride in our collective history because

of it.

When I was younger, my mother’s hair was natural and she wore in an afro all of the time. My two sisters’ hair, however, were both relaxed, as were most of the black girls’ hair at my school. I remember going to a parent-teacher conference with my mom in the second grade and feeling embarrassed by her natural hair in her typical, fluffy Afro. At the time, I was so accustomed to seeing straight hair that I thought her hair was different – nappy.

How often do you hear black women or men toss around the term “nappy?”

You can Google-search

“natural hair care” or search “how to take care of natural hair” on YouTube and find a multitudinous amount of information and ways to care for our curly coils. It doesn’t have to be difficult or daunting.

If you don’t know how to style your natural hair, there are websites specifically for natural hair care like curlynikki.com and black-girllonghair.com.

With the amount of information available now, to say getting a relaxer is easier to manage is almost a cop out. Look at all of the natural hair care product available to care for different textures now.

Over time, we are slowly transitioning to an acceptance of natural hair. Thirty years ago, we did not have even half the amount of available resources, hair products and hair styles we have today. Ten years ago, if your curls were not the perfect blend of white and black hair, you didn’t even bother wearing your hair out.

Today, however, in a society so digitally driven and with so many different things available to us, we should no longer be stuck under those age-old stereotypes and impressions.

African-American people should have no reason to be uninformed of our natural

hair. In the past, we had a lack of knowledge and were surrounded by European standards of beauty. Yet, despite advances in information gathering, many of us are still just ignorant and influenceable. It’s time to change.

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of The Collegian.

Ariel Crockett is senior in mass communications. Please send comments to opinion@kstatecollegian.com.

the FOURUM

785-260-0207

The Fourum is a quirky view of campus life in voices from the K-State community. Positive and humorous comments are selected for publication by the Collegian marketing staff.

Didn’t know looking like you popped out of a Richard Rimmons work out video is the in fashion thing in the Greek world.

Ladies do you feel like a cat batting at the toilet paper in any bathroom on campus? Got to love cheap 2-ply.

“Gender color norms...” Is a great article. Written well, very well-educated, and wonderfully correct. I completely agree!

That Drip Torch reading was amazing. I can’t wait to see what they do next. #likeaboss

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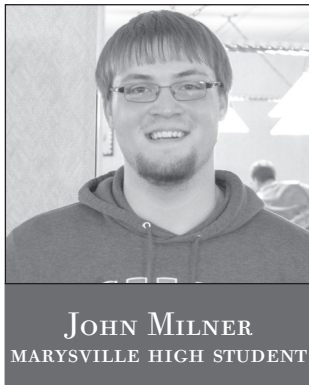
2 and 4 BR Furnished Apartments

There are still people on campus who took combatives in 2009? That was an awesome class. Nothin’ like waking up at 9:30 a.m. and grappling classmates into submission. Good times.

To submit your Fourum contribution, call or text 785-260-0207 or email thefourum@kstatecollegian.com. Your e-mail address or phone number is logged but not published.

Street Talk

Q: “What did you do to celebrate Cinco de Mayo?”



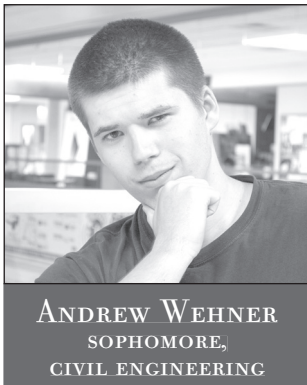
“Won the dairy foods contest and played some pool.”



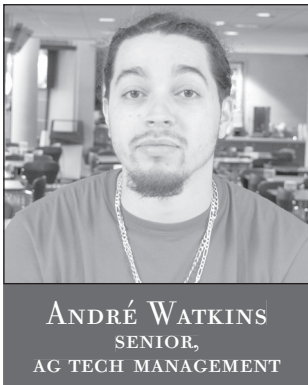
“I drank a jumbo Margarita and had chips and salsa.”



“I drank Mexican soda-pop and spoke Spanish.”



“Enjoyed dead week.”



“Being half-Hispanic, I know my family is getting together and enjoying themselves. As for me, I’m still studying for finals ... and reflecting on what Cinco de Mayo means.”

CLASSIFIEDS

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014

the collegian

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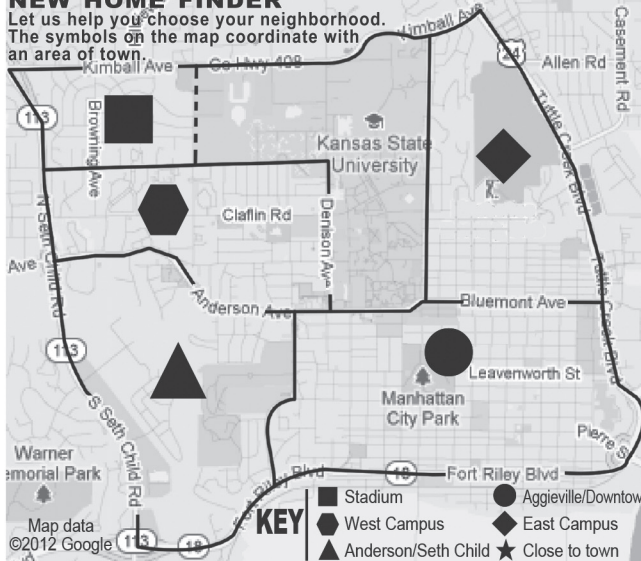
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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	4	3	7		1	9	6	
	9				8		3	
8		2						4
4						2		5
	8		5				4	
7	6	4			3	5	9	

Difficulty Level ★★★

8/25

8	3	7	1	6	5	2	9	4
5	9	2	8	4	7	6	3	1
4	1	6	3	2	9	5	8	7
1	8	4	5	7	2	9	6	3
6	2	3	9	8	4	1	7	5
9	7	5	6	1	3	4	2	8
3	6	8	2	5	1	7	4	9
7	5	9	4	3	6	8	1	2
2	4	1	7	9	8	3	5	6

Answer to the last Sudoku.

Difficulty Level ★★★

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KAYS | Student leaders prepped for summer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Kansas, will represent students in discussions about iSIS, Canvas, Outlook and more.

Cody and I care deeply about the well-being of students at K-State. Katie Gehrt, sophomore in political science from De Soto, Kansas, will work to increase safety for students on and off campus as health and safety director. She'll work with campus officials, local businesses and community partners on programming aimed at a safer, healthier campus environment.

We strive to represent students from all walks of life. Multicultural affairs director Christine Caban, sophomore in marketing from Junction City, and Youwei Yang, sophomore in agricultural economics from Jingtai, Gansu, China, will be our liaisons to the multicultural and international communities at K-State. Residence hall liaison Lindy Billberry, freshman in agribusiness, will represent the con-

cerns and interests of students living in campus housing.

As K-State continues to grow and serve a larger student body, we need to ensure a sustainable future. Sustainability director Caitlyn Webb, sophomore in international business and economics from Colorado Springs, Colorado, will work with campus organizations and university administration to study development opportunities and recommend utilization of resources with this goal in mind.

One of the broadest positions on the cabinet is student affairs director. Becky Brady, sophomore in elementary education from Wichita, will be our liaison to student organizations around campus. She will also review impending policy changes and campus decisions and bring us up to speed on how they could affect different groups.

Last but not least, we have our public relations director. Mike Stanton, sophomore in journalism from

Olathe, Kansas, will be in charge of communicating what we do in office to the student body. He helps organize these columns in The Collegian, runs social media campaigns and publishes posts to the SGA blog.

We have quite a group working for us, and we're excited for the year ahead. All of us are focused on representing students and ensuring that your K-State experience is the best it can be.

That's all for this week. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @KStateSBP_SBPV to keep tabs on what we're doing throughout the summer. Good luck with finals, and have a fantastic break!

Go Cats,

Reagan Kays
Student Body President
Your Education
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SOLDIERS | Kansas soldiers face challenges, rewards in readjusting to life after deployment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

rockets and mortar rounds.

"All of it gave me a rush due to the never knowing where the bullets or IDF (indirectly fired) was going to be at," Schur said.

Lifetime military service

Sgt. 1st Class Doug Plummer, also from Minneapolis, joined the military at the age of 17. The 59-year-old will retire in March 2015.

During his decades in the military, Plummer balances military and family life, which could sometimes be difficult, he said.

"Military life has been both a positive and negative experience in regard to family life," Plummer said.

Being separated for long periods of time was emotionally challenging for the Plummer family; being deployed and stationed at multiple military facilities affected Plummer's children and their relationship with their father.

Doug's son, John Plummer of Vicksburg, Mississippi, said his and his dad's relationship was not very "tight knit" at the time of his father's deployments.

"My dad and I kept a distant relationship," John said. "Shortly after my parents divorced, my dad rejoined the Army National Guard which meant he was even further away than he was originally going to be."

Because Plummer has served in the military for many years, readjusting to life stateside became almost automatic, although not

easy, he said. Plummer said he often became very impatient while dealing with a simple everyday task in America like buying things.

"Buying gas, tobacco or a bottle of water at a convenience store was, at one time, a terribly frustrating and unnerving," Plummer said.

According to Plummer, his most difficult homecoming was when he returned from his final deployment from Afghanistan in 2007. He had been on American soil for very short periods of time between his two previous deployments, and while on American soil, had spent the majority of his time training on military installations. This lack of time spent in the U.S. between 2003 and 2007 made adjusting to life in Kansas more difficult when he did return.

BILLBOARD | Sign receives mixed reviews from community

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

but the Flint Hills Human Rights Project has expressed excitement that people are talking about the issue nonetheless.

The Flint Hills Human Rights Project held an event, Beyond the Binary, on April 24 to promote open discussion about the issues faced by transgender people in society and in the Manhattan community. The event hosted more than 50 people, and featured Boatman as its speaker, followed by a panel discussion with O'Brien, Dorinda Lambert, director of Counseling Services, and physician Dr. Diana Brightbill. The panel spoke of the challenges transgenders, gays and lesbians face, particularly about how hard it is for them to have open conversations about themselves when so many do not understand their perspective. Each person shared stories of how the community of Manhattan had impacted them and allowed guests to ask as many questions as they wanted.

The reaction caused by the panel's message was positive from many people.

"That's incredible," Rebecca Lu, Manhattan resident, said. "Here in conservative Kansas, no less."

Others, however, said they did not agree with the message.

"I don't see why we have to be so tolerant," Dan Martin, junior in agricultural communications, said. "I mean, do what you want, but it would be a different story if I told you my religious views."

The Flint Hills Human Rights Project is a grassroots organization that locally supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. According to their website, they "seek to promote a society where people of all classes, races, sexual orientations and gender identities can enjoy complete sexual and reproductive freedom and expression, as part of their full enjoyment of life, without fear of harassment."

The organization offers membership to anyone who identifies as LGBT or an ally of LGBT rights, and uses donations for the Praxis Scholarship Fund. The Praxis Scholarship is open to any student or a Flint Hills area college or university that has demonstrated support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex and questioning (LGBTTIQ) individuals.

"Transgender and LGBT issues are being talked about openly in a way that encourages understanding," Kara Wilkes, sophomore in elementary education, said. "It's about students starting to use higher levels of thinking about these issues."

Drowning in debt



Photo illustration by Lisle Alderton

Students fail to pay increasing loans

By Sheila Ellis
KANSAS STATE COLLEGIAN

Rising costs of tuition and living expenses coupled with a slimming job market have caused K-State's student loan default rate to almost double from 15 percent to 27 percent. However, K-State's default rate average is considerably lower than the national average of 6.7 percent.

Defaulting occurs when borrowers fail to make loan payments for 270 consecutive days. According to the most recent statistics from the U.S. Department of Education, 155 K-State borrowers whose first loan payment came due between October 2006 and September 2007 defaulted by October 2008.

But the default rate is not the only rate that's increased at K-State, so has the number of student's needing

University default rates		
	2009	2008
Kansas State University	2.7	1.5
Emporia State University	5.9	3.6
Wichita State University	5.4	3.1
Pittsburg State University	5	4.1
Fort Hays State University	4.7	2.4
University of Kansas	2.6	2.3

dent loans in the down economy," said K-State Student Body President Dalton Henry. "As we see tuition continue to rise, we will continue to see students taking out more loans."

Jabviele Rhone, senior in sociology, said he had to take out about 25 percent more in loans this year than in previous years to cover rent, tuition and living expenses.

by K-State," Henry said. "We have tried to keep a K-State education affordable and accessible to students. We are trying to maintain affordability."

Compared to other schools in Kansas, K-State's default rate is considerably low with KU coming in at 2.6 percent at the lowest and Emporia State University at the highest with 5.9 percent.

Overall, 3.3 million student borrowers in the U.S. entered repayment during this period, and more than 225,000 went into default. The latest national loan default rate climbed to 6.7 percent, up from 5.2 percent the previous year.

INCREASING NEED FOR STUDENT LOANS
Moeder said K-State students borrowed \$80 million last year in federal

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